

Remarks

Reconsideration and allowance are requested in view of the above amendments and the remarks below. These amendments are being made to facilitate early allowance of the presently claimed subject matter. Applicant does not acquiesce in the correctness of the objections and rejections and reserve the right to pursue the full scope of the subject matter of the original claims in a subsequent patent application that claims priority to the instant application.

Formal replacement drawings are attached to this Amendment to address the objections set forth by the Examiner with regard to the drawings.

Headings have been added to the specification.

Claims 2-5 and 9-12 are allowed. Claims 6 and 7 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter.

Claims 6 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Accordingly, Applicant has amended claim 6 to remove the double recitation of the claimed "coupling member."

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 12 and its corresponding dependent claims are allowable.

If the Examiner believes that anything further is necessary to place the application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

/ John A. Merecki /

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